

## By the Queene.



Here in the Parliament holden at Westminster, the second day of Aprill, in  
the xiii. yere of the reign of our souerain Lady the Queene, there was for  
the reliefe of diuers poore decayed towns, & of great multitudes of her poore  
subiects, who other wise were likely to perish, or to become vnprofitable and  
dangerous to the common weale, among other prouided & established, one  
good & beneficall statute, entituled, An acte for the continuance of making  
of capes. By meane of which statute, great numbers of idle, poore, and im-  
potent persons were for a season set on worke, while the awe of the said sta-  
tute, and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marueilous great  
commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of yll occupied persons, as by the experience  
thereof hath bene maniflyst proued. And whereas neuertheles by little and litle, the disobedience and wan-  
ton disorder of euil disposed and light persons, more regarding priuate fancie and vanitie, then publike com-  
moditie or respect of duetie, hath increased by want of execution of the sayd law, whereby those good and ho-  
nest subiects that haue by meanes of the sayd statute, set to worke a great number of poore people, are like to  
be driven to give ouer their sayd trade of making caps, and to send abroad againe into idlenesse and misery,  
those multitudes that haue bene by them relieved: whereby is likely to grow great enormity and inconue-  
nience, if speedy remedy therfore be not in time prouided. The Queenes most excellent Maiestie therefore  
tenderly considering the premisses, straitly chargeth and commaundeth all Justices of Assises, Justices of  
peace, Maiors, Shirifes, Bailiffes, and other head officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Townes corporate, and  
the Lords, Stewards, Bailiffes, and other officers of Leetes, Lawdayes, and liberties, and all and singuler  
Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other her highnesse subiects, to whom  
the executing or putting in vre of the same statute any way may appertayn, that every one of them according  
to his office, place, and calling, doe their vttermost endeouour for the due execution of the sayd statute: and  
that they the sayd Bailiffes, Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other in-  
ferior officers, and every of them, doe every Sunday, and festiuall day, make diligent biew and search in all  
Churches, Chappells, and al other places within the circuites and compasses of their offices and authoritie,  
for all and singuler breakers and offenders of the saide statute, and without delay cause the names of al such  
offendours, and of the parents, gardians, governours, and masters of euery child, seruant, and warde, so of-  
fending, together with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then written, and to be lawfully and  
orderly presented, at such Assises, Sessions, or Courts (next after such offences) as haue authority to enquire  
or determine the said offences: And that all Maiors, Shirifes, and Bailiffes of Cities, Boroughs & Towns  
corporate, and all lords of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, doe immediatly vpon the proclamation hereof,  
call before them all the sayd Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferiour Bailiffes,  
and all other the abovesaid inferiour officers, that shall be vnder their charge of government, and them and  
every of them shortly in our names doe straitly charge and command, that they, and every of them, to the  
vttermost of their powers, do every Sonday and festiuall day, make such diligent biew and search, and such  
note also of the names of al such offenders, & such presentment of all such offences as is abovesaid: And that  
all Justices of Assises, and Justices of peace in their Circuits and Sessions, & al Stewards in their Leetes,  
vpon paine of her Maiesties high displeasure, omit not in any wise from time to time, specially to give in  
charge, and cause to be inquired of all offences against the sayd statute committed or to be committed within  
their severall precincts or iurisdictions, and also do duely heare and determine the same, punishing every of  
the said offenders according to the said statute: And that al the said lords & owners of Leets and Lawdayes,  
doe as much as in every of them shall lie, to cause their stewards throughly to execute their office and autho-  
ritie, according to the same statute, and that vpon every such offence founde, both the said owners of Leets,  
and also the rulers and cheife governours of every Citie, Borough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any such of-  
fence shall be tried and found, shall doe their vttermost indeouour by the Law to recover, haue, and obteine of  
every such offender, all the penalties to them or any of them, by the sayd statute forfeited, or to be forfeited.

God sau the Queene.

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